

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL REACTION TO GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE

REF: THESSALONIKI 281

1. WRITING IN JUNE 5 "ELLINIKOS VORRAS", CHIEF EDITOR
ELIAS KYROU TAKES EXCEPTION TO AP CORRESPONDENT LUDINGTON'S
REPORTED DISPATCH FROM ANKARA WHICH WEIGHS GREEK-TURKISH
MILITARY STRENGTH AND FINDE TURKS SUPERIOR.

2. KYROU ASSERTS THERE THREE AREAS OF POSSIBLE GREEK-TURKISH
CONFLICT: CYPRUS, AEGEAN AND THRACE. HE VIEWS EACH
SITUATION AS FOLLOWS:

A. KYROU REASONS THAT IN CYPRUS, US AND USSR INTERVENTION
WOULD QUICKLY HALT ANY POSSIBILITY OF PROLONGED CONFLICT.
HE FURTHER CONTENTS THAT TWO DIVISIONS OF CYPRIOT NATIONAL
GUARD MANNED BY GREEKS WOULD BE ABLE HOLD THEIR OWN
AGAINST ANY TURKISH ASSAULT FOR LIMITED PERIOD.

B. IN AEGEAN, KYROU WRITES THAT GREEKS HAVE 10 LARGE LANDING
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SHIPS AS OPPOSED TO NONE FOR THE TURKS, 12 MEDIUM LANDING

SHIPS, AND AN "UNLIMITED NUMBER OF" SMALLER PRIVATE VESSELS WHICH CAN BE PRESSED INTO SERVICE. HE DISMISSES TURKISH "89 WARSHIPS" AS "INEFFECTIVE" FOR PURPOSES OF CONFLICT IN THE AEGEAN.

C. WITHOUT ELABORATION, KYROU STATES THAT IN THRACE GREECE WOULD GAIN "ITS MOST IMPRESSIVE VICTORY" AND, WITH CHARACTERISTIC BOMBAST, ASSERTS GREEK FORCES WOULD "GO ON TO CONSTANTINOPLE".

3. EDITOR KYROU CONCLUDES THAT GREEKS ARE TODAY PSYCHOLOGICALLY PREPARED FOR CONFLICT AS THEY WERE IN 1940 AGAINST THE ITALIANS. FURTHER, HE WRITES, THE MORE SCIENTIFIC WARFARE BECOMES, THE LESS THE TURKS ARE SUITED TO CONDUCT IT.

4. COMMENT: ARTICLE FROM JINGOIST EDITOR IS SIGNIFICANT PRINCIPALLY IN THAT IT MIGHT REFLECT JUDGEMENT OF SENIOR MILITARY LEADERS HERE, NOTABLY BRIGADIER GENERAL TASSOPOULOS, WITH WHOM KYROU KNOWN TO BE CLOSE.
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